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RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT




Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December
1947



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RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

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by

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L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

RUNCORN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS

Medical Superintendent Dutton Isolation Hospital

OFFICIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent Dutton Isolation Hospital :

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

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G. W. LLOYD, R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Appleton (No. 2 District)

Certified Plumber, City and Guilds.

Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I.)

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (Liverpool University)

Tel. Nos. : Office: Stockton Heath 1024.

Home: Stockton Heath 180.

D. BOOTHMAN, M.S.I.A., Frodsham (No. 1. District)

National Certificate in Building.

Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Food (R.S.I.)

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Pupil Sanitary Inspectors :

J. ANDREWS (returned from H.M. Forces August, 1947).

D. CARLISLE, P. MOSS (joined H.M. Forces November, 1947.)

Clerical Duties :

H. BRIDGES

MISS S. DUTTON

Matron, Dutton Isolation Hospital :

Miss C. E. REES,, S.R.N. Tel.: Aston 201.

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RURAL DISTRICT OF RUNCORN, 1947

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR C. WILKINSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR G. S. WALLWORTH

Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR G. S. WALLWORTH, *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON, *Vice-Chairman*

Councillor	W. H. CAPPER	Councillor	J. W. KIRKHAM
„	F. CHADWICK	„	W. S. LOOKER
„	H. HELSBY	„	R. E. PAYTON
„	H. HILL	„	H. PEACOCK
„	J. HUNT	„	Mrs. E. STANSFIELD
„	H. JACKSON	„	G. WILLIAMS

Councillor E. G. WHITE

OFFICERS :

Clerk of the Council :

Mr. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham.

Engineer and Surveyor :

Mr. A. J. KING, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.M.&CY.E., Frodsham

Solicitor :

Mr. W. E. HOUGH, Runcorn (To 30th September, 1947)

Mr. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham (From 1st October, 1947)

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN.

Gentlemen,

As in my introduction to my Annual Report for 1946, this introduction may be somewhat long, but this is deliberate so that all concerned may use it for Health Education, reading it in conjunction with the main part of the Report. If assistance in lecturing, etc., is required, I will only be too glad to help in forwarding in any way the important matter of HEALTH EDUCATION. Extra copies of this Report can be obtained from Messrs. Mackie & Co. Ltd., on payment, if ordered before the end of the year.

The year 1947, as for the years previously, has been a difficult one for all concerned, now mainly due owing to the shortage of labour and materials for houses.

Dirty, overcrowded, insanitary dwellings, especially in dense areas, produce disease ; we can deal with the first, i.e. DIRT, by personal cleanliness (hot baths, clean clothes, etc.), and cleanliness in the home ; THE LATTER BY FREQUENT AND THOROUGH "SPRING CLEANING," which has been proved to destroy disease germs and so prevent disease.

Excellent books to read on Hygiene are the St. John, Red Cross, Girl Guides, and Boy Scouts issues. Official Courses can be arranged by these organisations on this subject.

In addition, as regards overcrowded and insanitary dwellings, new houses are required, which MUST be a priority in matters to be dealt with. A short-term policy should be settled, to be followed by a long term policy with eventually the eradication of dense areas (all fitting into a proper Town Planning Scheme), for large and small families.

A Housing Survey of the district was commenced late in 1945, and was completed in 1946, as previously reported in my 1946 report.

Speaking generally, the health of the community is satisfactory for the moment (see especially page 45), but the shortage of houses for the people as stated above may prove serious as regards health if allowed to continue for too long. The latter has not decreased the efforts of all concerned in the essential work required in connection with Infectious Diseases. Food, Milk, Water, Housing, and Health Education (see pages 19, 27, 29 & 31).

It is noted with satisfaction that the Government have dealt by further Acts of Parliament with the many aspects of Public Health ; these apply, for example, to Housing, Town and Country Planning, Milk Supplies, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Education and further facilities for medical treatment and social security, action as indicated is required as soon as possible.

The World Health Organisation of the United Nations, when formed and functioning properly, will help to bring to everyone an equal opportunity to obtain physical AND mental health regardless of nationality, race, or economic status.

The United Nations will require EVERYONE'S full support through the United Nations Associations, etc.

The various excellent Voluntary Societies will, as before, be most useful agencies whereby members of the community will be made aware of the contents of these various Acts of Parliament by explaining these to all concerned, and also informing citizens of the numerous voluntary societies which have available *now* facilities suitable to *all* tastes.

We must congratulate the National Council of Social Service with their many attached Societies, etc., for their excellent voluntary work, and especially the Cheshire Community Council ; in addition, the Arts Council for Great Britain has, and in future will have an important bearing in bringing Music, Drama, Art, etc., to the People.

Insufficient attention is given to the prevention of accidents, especially in young persons, which could be avoided by common sense methods. Voluntary Societies and School Authorities can help in this important matter with suitable lectures and discussion groups at frequent intervals. The Citizens Advice Bureau (Chester and Warrington) can advise where Specialist Lecturers can be obtained.

Community Centres and Village Halls with playing fields are required as soon as possible so that citizens may join together in search of further healthy mental and physical exercise. Children require suitable playing fields provided through the Education Authority and the National Playing Fields Associations, assisted by the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

The Carnegie Trust through the Cheshire Community Council have available grants and loans for Community Centres and Village Halls, they also assist, especially Music and Drama Societies, with grants for Special Advisers, etc.

The Carnegie Trust is only available for Community Centres and Village Halls in districts with a population of 5,000 or under. Where the population is over 5,000 the provision of community Centres and Village Halls is the responsibility of the Education Authority. Prefabricated huts have been supplied in some cases as a temporary measure.

The Ministry of Food have directed the attention of all to making use of the most readily available and best foods, in fact, have done much to help us to keep fit. May we continue to learn from our experiences, especially in the choosing of foods available, and improving our cooking (with proper flavour) and the inclusion in our daily diet of some uncooked fresh green vegetables, or, if these are cooked, we must see that this is carried out properly, otherwise valuable Vitamins will be lost. Good cooking and a varied diet is essential to good health.

A stock pot for soups should be used more extensively.

Fish, for example, Herrings, are a valuable food. Fruit Juices as an extra should also be used daily, otherwise a condition of scurvy may occur due to Vitamin C deficiency, *e.g.*, orange juice, tomato, rose hips, and blackcurrant juice have much Vitamin C in them, in some cases under Medical direction vitamin tablets are necessary where there is a serious deficiency of Vitamins.

Young children must have their daily (pasteurised) milk—(liquid or dried) animal fats, *e.g.*, Cod Liver Oil, etc., and fruit juices ; schoolchildren their school meals and extra milk (pasteurised), which should be suitably flavoured to encourage the use of milk, so as to prevent disease and lay a good foundation for health in the body.

Expectant Mothers and certain special sick should have their extra milk (pasteurised), etc. *If milk is not pasteurised it should be suitably heat treated in the home.*

The following foods, some mentioned above, *i.e.*, Milk, Cheese, Eggs (fresh or dried), Fish (especially herrings), fresh vegetables and fruit, are the *preventive foods*, *i.e.*, those which prevent disease ; they *must* be included in the *daily* diet for all, but *especially* for children, adolescents and the special cases already quoted.

Exposure of the Skin to Sunlight (Natural and Artificial), under medical supervision, apart from the tonic effect, creates valuable vitamins in the body which help to prevent disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation proves again and again everywhere in the world its wonderful powers to prevent this deadly disease : ALL CHILDREN, preferably between the 6th and 9th month, must be properly Immunised, with a further dose in just under five years' time, this can be obtained free of charge under the Council's scheme from their own Doctors (at the Surgery or at home), failing this at the Welfare Centres, Day Nursery or Schools. Prevention is better than cure.

Owing to the danger of serious cases of Smallpox arriving in this County from abroad, all concerned are advised they should be vaccinated as required by the Act.

It is hoped that more Youth Hostels will become available generally, so allowing walkers and cyclists that necessary exercise and enjoyment in new and beautiful surroundings at very cheap rates. Youth Hostels are one of the many Youth Organisations available for all concerned (*e.g.*, Scouts, Guides, etc.). Open-air exercise is cheap and essential to all.

Health Education.—Immunisation, Skin Diseases, Dietetics and Cooking, also Venereal Disease, have all received attention by lectures, etc. The Central Council for Health Education have been of assistance in this connection. Education in health matters through voluntary societies, schools, etc., IS MOST IMPORTANT ; on application to me lectures, films, gramophone records (by a Medical Officer of Health, etc.) can be obtained. A pamphlet (see appendix "A" enclosed) on the Commonsense Measures against Disease is issued as required to all concerned via Voluntary Societies, Health Visitors, District Nurses, Midwives and Sanitary Inspectors, it has proved most useful and instructive, especially where discussion groups, lectures, etc., have been arranged on this subject matter.

Infestation.—Infestations of children with head lice, which can not only convey infections, but through irritations and sometimes septic conditions, lower the standard of health of the children affected, is being dealt with as efficiently as possible. The use of Lethane Oil (with hot lysol solution and derbac comb) is strongly recommended as this has been found to be efficacious in the eradication of head lice. Derbac Soap with the Derbac Comb has also been used. All parents and guardians should note this matter now and in the future.

Scabies.—The Scheme which was put into operation during the year 1942 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Scabies Order, is being carried out via General Practitioners, failing this, at the Warrington Cleansing Centre and Northwich Cleansing Centre on application to me ; the treatment consists of bathing and the appli-

cation of benzyl benzoate, with the necessary washing, disinfection, ironing of blankets, etc. During the year the incidence of scabies notified has been slight.

Water Supply.—A detailed list of dwellings not on a main supply was forwarded on 30th April, 1946, to the Ministry of Health (Manchester and London) and the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, as requested by the former. All should have a pure main supply as soon as possible, in cases of doubt as to the purity of a water supply this must be filtered through clean cloth as required, then boiled or chlorinated before use. Owners and occupiers concerned are informed of this quarterly, *and where farms and farm dwellings are involved they are also recommended to approach the Cheshire Agricultural Committee for a Grant.*

Disposal of Sewage.—My Council hope as soon as possible to deal with the laying of sewers, etc., in parishes requiring this in order of priority—a short and long-term policy has been arranged, but action is dependent on authority from the Ministry of Health.

Maternity Home.—The Cheshire County Council has under active consideration the provision of a Maternity Home to serve the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts. The shortage of staff may delay the project, but it should be undertaken as soon as possible.

The Cheshire County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee make arrangements as required through the Welfare Centres for mothers to have their confinements in various Maternity Hospitals (*i.e.*, West Park and Clatterbridge) and Homes (*e.g.*, Chester Maternity Home, etc.) ; also—

- Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary.
- Chester Maternity Home.
- Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.
- Crewe Maternity Home.
- The Garth, Neston.
- Glossop Maternity Home.
- Hope Hospital, Pendleton.
- Liverpool Maternity Hospital.
- Longton Cottage Hospital.
- St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.
- Sale War Memorial Hospital.
- Salvation Army Home, Liverpool.
- Southfields, Bowden.
- Warrington Borough (Victoria Park).
- Widnes Maternity Home.

In connection with **Child Welfare**, in addition to the official Centres, etc., available for all concerned, there are many representative Voluntary Organisations concerned with this very import-

ant subject, for further information on this subject enquiries should be made at the Public Health Department, or the Citizens' Advice Bureau (Warrington or Chester).

Special mention must be made of the information available from the Marriage Guidance Council to combat ignorance in this important subject. At the moment information can be obtained at Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics, Day Nurseries, Welfare Centres, etc.

Dutton Isolation Hospital.—Dutton Isolation Hospital is still being used as the combined Hospital for my Urban and Rural Districts. The Staff has been under establishment of Nurses for some time ; those available have given efficient service, under the supervision of the Matron, some St. John Brigade Runcorn Nursing members acting as part-time Nurses (Assistant Nurses—Intermediate). More part-time nurses are required until a full-time staff is available.

New Drugs for Treatment.—The use of the "Sulpha Drugs", the further use of Penicillin and Streptomycin for all, has saved and will save much suffering, and many lives.

Further Medical and Veterinary Research (in addition the virus diseases in plants, etc.), may solve the question of the cause and spread of the diseases caused by virus, especially the serious disease Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

New Insecticides.—The excellent Insecticides D.D.T. and "666" will help to wipe out insects, especially those which carry disease, e.g., flies have been found to carry various serious diseases. Every means should be taken to destroy these, e.g. PROPER DISPOSAL OF REFUSE, cool flyproof larders, fly papers, D.D.T. sprays, etc.

Experiments are still being made by the Ministry of Health to produce efficient protective serum against the sometimes serious diseases in children—Measles and Whooping Cough. Eventually these diseases should not occur. "Aerosporin" has been used in the cure of early cases of Whooping Cough.

Intensive research is being carried out by the Ministry of Health to ascertain whether German Measles (Rubella) occurring in pregnant women may cause certain malformations, etc., in the new-born. In addition, the danger of acute hæmolytic disease in the new-born.

It is interesting to note that most Tropical Diseases have a cure due mostly to intensive research work to find the cause.

Under the new Health Act which comes into force on 5th July, 1948, various Regional Hospital Boards will be formed, Executive Committees for Medical Practitioners, etc., also Cheshire will be divided into fifteen Divisions each with a Divisional Health Committee (and a Divisional Medical Officer of Health), which will have powers delegated to it by the Cheshire County Council Public Health Committee. Runcorn (Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts), will be one of these Divisions.

The year 1947, has been a strenuous year and we have had an anxious time in carrying out our duties. My sincere thanks is extended to my Council, Officials, Doctors, Dentists, Nurses, Health Visitors, and all Voluntary Bodies for their help, FOR ONLY BY TEAM WORK AND CO-OPERATION COULD A SATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS BE SUSTAINED.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	45,765
(b)	Estimated population	....	....	....	....	32,930
(c)	Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1947) according to the Rate Books	....	....	....	....	10,234
(d)	Rateable value of the District (end 1947)	....	....	....	....	£220,766
(e)	Sum represented by one Penny rate (approx.)	....	....	....	....	£887
(f)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	1.38
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	3.21

Social Conditions

Agriculture and Dairy Farming are the chief Industries of the district ; other Industries are Tanneries, Electric Cable, Electric Fittings and Steel Tube works, Flour Mills and Jam Works. Sand Quarrying is being carried on in the district, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

Unemployment.—Exact statistics are not available for this area, as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour relate to the areas served by such offices, and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment, however, was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district. Others are employed on the railways and as porters in canal warehouses.

Children's Homes and Sanatoria.—There is one National Children's Home at Frodsham (270 children), one Open-Air Convalescent School for Jewish children at Norley ; two Sanatoria at Manley each accommodating about 300 persons.

Welfare Centres.—The Cheshire County Council have under consideration the provision of more Welfare Centres in the district, at present there is a Welfare Centre (fully staffed) at Helsby, Frodsham, Stockton Heath and Grappenhall.

VITAL STATISTICS

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	....	....	537	294	243
Illegitimate	....	....	18	8	10
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			555	302	253

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 16.85
 Still Births 19 9 10

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still births) : 32.98.
 Deaths 393 221 172

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 11.93

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

Rate per 1,000

		<i>Deaths</i>	<i>(Live and Still Births)</i>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	....	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes		1	1.73
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	.... ....	1	1.73

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births (27 deaths) Death Rate 48.6
 Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 48.4
 Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 55

Particulars of any UNUSUAL OR EXCESSIVE MORTALITY
during the year which has received or required comment

The causes of the highest mortality were :

Heart Disease 104
 Cancer 58

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of *e.g.*, rheumatism in childhood, this is being further investigated under instruction from the Ministry of Health.

For further remarks on Cancer see page 40 (*i.e.*, further research, early treatment, etc.).

COMPARISON RATES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>
1937	31,290	13.5	11.4	43
1938	31,790	13.06	12.2	41
1939	32,420	13.08	11.0	35
1940	32,790	13.2	12.8	37
1941	33,000	12.28	10.53	39
1942	33,000	14.2	11.2	29.6
1943	33,000	15.7	11.5	46.5
1944	33,000	18.24	10.55	34.54
1945	31,710	15.5	11.07	32.58
1946	32,760	16.9	11.69	32.43
1947	32,930	16.85	11.93	48.6

Population figures for 1941-1944, estimate only.

A table on page 38 gives the birth-rate, death-rate, and analysis of mortality during the year 1947, and comparisons with England and Wales, London and the other great and smaller towns.

There were 239 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
From 65-69	Number of Deaths	12	28	40
„ 70-79	„ „ „	68	59	127
„ 80-89	„ „ „	36	29	65
„ 90-99	„ „ „	4	3	7

Summary of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age

Asphyxia due to being overlaid whilst in bed with his Father	Male age 4 months
1 (a) Broncho-pneumonia (b) Acute Bronchitis	Male age 2 months
1 (a) Prematurity	Female age 3 days
Broncho-pneumonia	Male age 9 months
Congenital malformation of urinary tract absence of left kidney	Male age 1 hour
Asphyxia due to accidental inhalation of vomited material	Female age 3 months
1 (a) Inanition (b) prematurity (c) twin birth	Male age 3 days
1 (a) Broncho-pneumonia	Female age 4 months
1 (a) Inanition (b) infantile atrophy 11 prematurity	Male age 7 months
1 (a) Broncho-pneumonia	Female age 9 months
1 (a) Gastro-enteritis	Male age 2 weeks
1 (a) Gastro-enteritis	Female age 2 weeks
1 (a) Marasmus. 11 septic ulcer in groin	Male age 1 month
1 (a) Gastro-enteritis (b) pyloric stenosis of infarcts (operated on)	Female age 2 months

1 (a) Infective hepatitis	....	....	....	Male age 2 months
1 (a) Broncho-pneumonia	(b) enteritis	11		
prematurity	....	....	....	Female age 1 month
1 (a) Atelectasis	....	....	....	Female age 20 mins.
Toxaemia due to ac. miliary tuberculosis	....			Male age 10 mins.
1 (a) Broncho-pneumonia	(b) Gastro-enteritis	....	....	Male age 1 month
1 (a) Peritonitis	(b) congenital hernia of umbilical cord	....	....	Male age 1 week
1 (a) Acidosis	(b) dehydration	(c) Gastro-enteritis	....	Male age 8 months
1 (a) Gastro-enteritis	....	....	....	Female age 6 months
1 (a) Prematurity	....	....	....	Male age 40 mins.
1 (a) Enteritis	(b) marasmus	....	....	Male age 1 month
1 (a) Atelectasis	11 congenital Cervical Meningocele	....	....	Female age 25 mins.
1 (a) Acute gastro-enteritis	....	....	....	Female age 2 weeks
1 (a) Prematurity	....	....	....	Male age 4 days

Prevention of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality—Children

Treatment in a General Hospital or an Infectious Disease Hospital is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit, and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in Hospital or Nursing Homes. District Nurses assist in nursing at Home.

More volunteers are URGENTLY required for the County Council "Home Help Scheme". Helpers are paid through the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, 24, Nicholas Street, Chester, assisted by the various Health Visitors.

The above is in addition to Health Education, Welfare Schemes and Clinics, etc.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

1. Public Health Officers

The names and qualifications, districts, address and telephone are given at the beginning of the Report. In addition, Mr. Lloyd, Sanitary Inspector, has a sub-office at 22, Orchard Street, Stockton Heath.

2. Facilities

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. The Institute can supply serum for cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Anthrax, etc., in emergency.

As from 18th July, 1947, the Liverpool City Laboratory (Professor Robinson), 126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3, was available to Doctors practising in the district, but only those examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health, i.e. investigations, etc., of infectious diseases, are carried out free of charge to my Council.

With the facilities given by Professor Robinson, City Laboratory, Liverpool, all concerned will be able to make further arrangements for pathological overhauls, *so essential* in certain cases.

Milk and T.B. Sputums are sent to the County Public Health Laboratory, Chester, for examination.

V.D. specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester. (Slides, etc., can be obtained from the County Medical Officer of Health, 24, Nicholas Street, Chester.)

(b) Ambulance Facilities

Two well-equipped ambulances are maintained by the Local Authority. They are garaged at Dutton, in the centre of the area, whence there is easy access to all parts. One is used for infectious cases. Arrangements are in force with the Urban District for the co-ordination of ambulance services. The service is adequate for the time being, but when the local Fire Brigade is established under the County and/or Local Authority, it is recommended that at least one Ambulance and one Car for sitting cases be available at Frodsham and Stockton Heath, but these will be taken over by the Cheshire County Council, under the new Health Act, and the service will be increased.

(c) Nursing in the Home

(i) GENERAL. The whole of the area is served by Local Nursing Associations. Each employs one trained nurse. These Associations work independently of the County Authority, and do excellent work.

(ii) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious diseases in the homes.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

These are provided by the County Council as follows :—

(1) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE :

Child Welfare Centres—

Methodist Sunday School, Stockton Heath, alternate Mondays, 2.30 p.m.

Methodist Sunday School, Grappenhall, Tuesdays, p.m.

Trinity Church House, Frodsham, alternate Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.

Cable Works, Helsby, alternate Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn, Wednesdays a.m. and p.m.

Ante-natal services : Ante-natal clinic, 29, High Street, Runcorn, Thursday, 9.30 a.m. Any expectant mother may be examined twice by a Doctor of her own choice at her own home.

(2) ORTHOPÆDIC CLINICS

Methodist Sunday School, Stockton Heath, Tuesday and Friday 2.30 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn, Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m.

(3) TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis Dispensary, Memorial Hospital, Runcorn, Friday 11 a.m.

(4) DAY NURSERY OKELL STREET, RUNCORN

Under direct control of the County Council. Open each day 8 a.m. (except Sundays).

(5) VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS (*Free and Confidential*) serving the district—

LIVERPOOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Males :	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Thursday	5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Females :	Tuesday	4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	12 noon to 1 p.m.

WARRINGTON INFIRMARY

Males and Females :	Monday	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Males :	Thursday	5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Females :	Thursday	4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH GENERAL HOSPITAL

Males and Females :	Friday	12 noon to 2 p.m.
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CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

Males :	Wednesday	5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
	Saturday	12 noon to 2 p.m.
Females :	Monday and Thursday	5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

(6) SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

Minor Ailments Clinic—Trinity Church House, Frodsham, Thursday, 2 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn, Monday, Thursday, Friday 2 p.m.
Tuesday and Friday, 9.30 a.m.

(e) Hospitals

(1) The RUNCORN VICTORIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL is a Voluntary Hospital with 32 beds, staffed by the local Medical Practitioners and Visiting Consulting Surgeons from Liverpool.

It is primarily for the reception of surgical and accident cases.

(2) SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.—The Council has an arrangement with Warrington Corporation for the accommodation of Smallpox cases.

(3) DUTTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL—47 beds—is under the control of the Runcorn Rural District Council, with a combined Committee, Runcorn Urban and Runcorn Rural District Councils, this establishment is staffed by Dr. E. N. Hillman Gray as Medical Superintendent, a Matron, Sister, 6 Assistant Nurses, and 1 Ward Maid. Extra Nursing Staff to be engaged when necessary for special cases. Some St. John Brigade Runcorn Nursing Members, acting as part time Assistant Nurses (Intermediate) are engaged at the Hospital, more part-time nurses are required as there has been a grave shortage of nursing staff. Two porters (one resident) are employed at the Hospital; they do ambulance work and disinfection in addition to their hospital duties.

Provision is made for the employment of Specialists for any case requiring their advice and skill.

All infectious cases from Runcorn Urban District are admitted here.

Special cases of Measles and Whooping Cough can obtain Hospital treatment.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases from other areas of the County in accordance with the scheme for co-ordination of hospital accommodation throughout the County, *if sufficient staff is available.*

Warrington Corporation Smallpox Hospital at Sankey.—The right to send smallpox patients to this hospital has been reserved by the Council, and an annual subsidy is paid to the Warrington Corporation for this purpose.

(4) DUTTON INSTITUTION—213 beds—Controlled by Public Assistance Committee of the County. This infirmary is classified for admission of chronic sick cases. Cases requiring special treatment are transferred to Clatterbridge General Hospital (Wirral) and elsewhere.

(5) VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS receiving patients from this area :

- *Manchester Royal Infirmary.
- *Chester Royal Infirmary.
- Liverpool Royal Infirmary.
- Liverpool Southern Hospital.
- Liverpool Northern Hospital.
- Liverpool Ear and Throat Hospital.
- Victoria Memorial Hospital, Runcorn.
- *Warrington Infirmary.
- Northwich Infirmary.
- Altrincham General Hospital.
- *Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.
- *Liverpool Radium Institute.

The Council pay yearly for "Admit Cards" to the Hospitals marked with an asterisk.

In-patient and Out-patient recommendation forms are furnished to the Council, and these are supplied to residents in the Council's area on application being made to the Council's Clerk.

(6) There is one private maternity home in the area, in Grappenhall ; this is visited by the representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and registered by him.

General

The Hospital and Laboratory Services, etc., will be further extended under the new National Health Act. The County Medical Officer of Health has forwarded his proposals on this matter.

SECTION C

(i) **Water.** There have been no new major works carried out during the year, and the existing supplies were satisfactorily maintained.

Private water supplies which have, as a result of sampling, been established as unsafe are not further sampled. Boiling and chlorinating notices are sent quarterly to the occupiers and owners, and where these are farms or farm cottages the Land Drainage Officer of the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee is notified.

During the year 3 properties were connected to the mains supply.

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from (a) Public Water Mains
(b) Private Supplies.

Parish	(a) Public Water Mains				(b) Private Supplies			
	Direct to House		Standpipes		Private Water Mains		Wells and Springs	
	Houses	Popu- lation	Houses	Popu- lation	Houses	Popu- lation	Houses	Popu- lation
Alvanley	94	315	1	—	—	—	4	13
Antrobus	191	628	9	29	—	—	14	45
Appleton	775	2514	—	—	—	—	3	10
Aston	36	127	—	—	27	87	2	6
Budworth (Great)	98	329	6	19	—	—	3	10
Daresbury	61	207	—	—	—	—	11	36
Dutton	85	285	—	—	—	—	3	11
Frodsham	1519	4631	3	10	—	—	4	14
Grappenhall	1739	5649	—	—	—	—	1	4
Halton	431	1373	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatton	85	286	—	—	—	—	6	19
Helsby	732	2332	—	—	21	68	1	3
Kingsley	306	1024	20	65	—	—	21	71
Manley	127	419	—	—	—	—	7	26
Moore	156	517	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norley	258	852	—	—	—	—	4	14
Norton	15	50	—	—	19	62	8	29
Preston Brook	103	344	—	—	—	—	9	29
Stockton Heath	2217	7129	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton	129	427	—	—	—	—	1	3
Sutton	201	622	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walton	502	1641	—	—	—	—	4	13
Whitley	156	514	4	13	—	—	2	6
TOTALS	10016	32215	43	136	67	217	108	362

The supplies with the exception of the Parish of Helsby are from other Authorities, and the results of Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological examinations are as follows :—

<i>Chemical Analysis</i>	<i>Helsby Supply Wells. No treatment carried out</i>	<i>Warrington Harrol Edge (Frodsham)</i>	<i>Liverpool Vyrnwy (Norley)</i>	<i>Liverpool Vyrnwy (Stockton Heath)</i>	<i>Runcorn and District Water Board (Halton)</i>
Appearance	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Yellow colour 31 Hazen Units pH 6.6	Yellow 41 Hazen Units pH 6.6	Slightly yellow clear
Reaction	pH 7.5	pH 7.1	pH 6.6	pH 6.6	pH 6.9
	<i>parts per 100,000</i>				
Total Solids	26.0	18.1	4.5	5.9	3.7
Nitrogen as free and Saline ammonia	0.0110	0.0080	0.0010	0.0020	0.0012
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0008	0.0045	0.003
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.09	0.20	0.06	0.03	0.025
Chlorides, as Cl	3.9	3.0	0.9	0.90	1.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 3 hours at 27°C	0.016	0.015	0.04	0.324	0.279
Total Hardness	21	10	2.5	2.5	3.0
Temporary Hardness	16.8	9.2	0.6	1.2	1.2
Permanent Hardness	4.2	0.8	1.9	1.3	1.8
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil		Nil	Nil
Poisonous metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Nil	Nil
<i>Bacteriological examination— coliform organisms</i>					
Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 mls.	0	0	0	0	0
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 mls.	0	0	0	0	0

Analyst's Opinion

HELSEY SUPPLY AND WARRINGTON HARROL EDGE SUPPLY

Both samples contain relatively high concentrations of free ammonia, which may, however, be due to application of ammonia-chlorine treatment, although neither sample contained chlorine when received.

LIVERPOOL VYRNWY SUPPLY (NORLEY)

The chemical and bacteriological condition of this water is satisfactory.

LIVERPOOL VYRNWY SUPPLY (STOCKTON HEATH)

This is Liverpool water, and contains harmless organic matter derived from a peaty gathering ground. The sample did not contain any free chlorine, or chlorine combined as chloramine and no chlorinous taste was detectable. Chlorination is sometimes intermittent in the Liverpool supply, and it may be that an excess has occurred on some previous occasion, but in its present state the water is quite suitable for drinking purposes.

RUNCORN AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD SUPPLY (HALTON)

The chemical and bacteriological conditions are satisfactory.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** A small 9" sewer extension at Five Crosses, Frodsham was carried out during the year. There have been no new major works carried out during the year, and the existing plant has been satisfactorily maintained.

(iii) **Cesspools and Septic Tanks (old type).** In my opinion these should not be installed, but where sewers are not practicable, an up-to-date tank plus a suitable filter, etc., is recommended.

(iv) **Rivers and Streams—Tannery Effluent.** With regard to the effluents from the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Cliffe Lane Tannery, and the Grappenhall Tanning Co., both of these Companies have constructed certain works with the object of rendering the effluent of such a nature which would be acceptable by this Council to be treated at the Sewage Works.

One of the works only has been completed, and at the other works the treatment plant will soon be in operation. Various engineering difficulties were met with preventing earlier operation of their scheme. The Lancashire and Cheshire Rivers Board have both these matters under their observation.

2. (i) **Closet Accommodation.** 41 conversions to water carriage system were carried out and 9 old type privies have been converted to pail closets.

(ii) **Public Cleansing.** Disposal of Refuse is by tipping which should be "controlled."

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 :—

<i>Nature of Inspection</i>				<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Informal Notices</i>	<i>Statutory Notices</i>
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts).	....	....		6	—	—
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Acts)	....	....		230	118	20
Dwelling Houses (No. of Inmates and queries re Council House applications	....	....		857	—	—
Schools	....	....	....	18	—	—
Camping Grounds (Tents, Vans, Sheds)	....	....		47	—	—
Water Supplies (Samples)	....	....		43	—	—
Water Supplies (Other Inspections)	....	....		39	7	—

Defective Roofs, Gutters, etc.	....	....	201	91	28
Ashplaces, Earth Closets	....	....	57	33	—
Closets converted to W.C.s	....	....	41	10	31
Drains, Sanitary Fittings	....	....	160	80	20
Cesspools and Settling Tanks	....	....	155	44	—
Premises connected to Sewer	....	....	92	6	86
Ditches, Brooks	....	....	39	13	2
Sewer Matters	....	....	42	14	2
Drain Colour Tests	....	....	15	3	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	32	30	—
Streets, Yards, Passages	....	....	81	10	—
Foul Accumulations	....	....	37	14	1
Vermin (Rats, Bugs, etc.)	....	....	156	3	—
Piggeries	....	....	21	3	—
Dairy Farms	....	....	222	42	1
Milk Retailers	....	....	63	18	—
Milk Tests and Inquiries	....	....	45	19	—
Factories and Workshops	....	....	84	2	1
Shops and Food Stores	....	....	190	6	1
Meat and Food Inspection Visits	....	....	104	14	—
Canal Boats	....	....	18	—	—
Zymotic Inquiries	....	....	154	—	—
Visits to Contacts and Schools	....	....	26	—	—
Mortuaries	....	....	13	—	—
Petrol Storages	....	....	18	—	—
Bakehouses	....	....	43	—	—
Squatters Camps	....	....	127	—	—
Miscellaneous	....	....	77	—	—
TOTALS	....	....	<u>3553</u>	<u>620</u>	<u>193</u>

(iv) Shops

SHOPS ACT. 1934.

No. employing persons	....	....	118
No. employing members of own family only	....	....	172

290.

Of these Shops :

No. selling food	....	....	193
No. registered under	(1) Manufacture and sale of		
Food and Drugs Act	ice-cream	....	9
1938, Section 14)	(2) Sale only of ice-cream	....	11
	(3) Preparation of preserved		
	foods	....	39
No. with mechanical power and also listed as factories	....	....	31

It will be noted that many of the shops are small family concerns; those with mechanical power have also been listed as factories. 190 inspections have been made. Informal action has been taken in 6 cases.

In general having regard to supply difficulties, conditions are satisfactory.

(v) Ice-Cream

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 came into operation on 1st May. All persons registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream were circularised regarding the above regulations. The manufacturers in this district deal with small quantities only for their own retail trade and they were therefore advised that the "complete cold mix" is most satisfactory for their requirements. One only is considering the installation of the special plant required for the "hot mix."

All premises were kept under close supervision by the Sanitary Inspectors, and particular attention was paid to instructing personnel in the correct technique of sterilisation of the utensils and equipment.

7 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The grades on the methylene blue reduction test were :—
Grade 1—two Grade 2—two Grade 4—three.

Necessary action was taken in the case of unsatisfactory supplies.

(vi) Smoke Abatement

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

No action was taken in 1947.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying only the proper means of burning good coal, etc., in the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing this nuisance.

(vii) Rats and Mice Destruction

The Sanitary Inspectors act as Rodent Officers within the Cheshire County Scheme. One full-time rat-catcher is employed who adequately deals with the infestation of non-agricultural property within the district. There are 23 contracts with private firms and the Council has 19 tips, sewage outfalls and properties which receive treatment as required.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937
Home Office Form 572. (Revised)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	52 (32)	26	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	72 (6)	58	2	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act excluding out workers' premises.	30 (—)	4	—	—
TOTAL	154	88	4	—

NOTE—Numbers in brackets () are number of small factories NOT employing persons and are included in the original number given.

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. by Inspector	H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework.	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	1	—	2	—

All factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose. There are no "Outworkers" in the District.

(ix) Swimming Baths

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

(1) Camping Sites and Caravans**(2) Housing of Imported Labour**

Both these important questions are being dealt with through the special combined Housing Committee (Cheshire County Council and Rural District Councils) ; *it is hoped that their recommendations will be available soon and the necessary action taken to remedy certain bad defects.* Certain camping sites have become disused and the licences have been cancelled. The Public Health Act is used wherever possible to minimise the dangers of health, but the new Town and Country Planning Act should be of great assistance in ensuring that these matters are properly dealt with.

Moveable Dwellings

The Council reviewed the position of all camping grounds and individual dwellings during the year. They decided that in future licences for land should have a condition attached allowing only tents and bonafide trailer caravans, and such fixed type dwellings of which the owner has obtained an individual licence.

Housing of Imported Labour

"Shanties" on farms are inspected when inspections under Milk and Dairies Orders are made. Much improvement should be effected. Various agricultural hostels are excellently maintained by the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

(x) Camping Sites

Number of Licences issued by Local Authority under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec., 269

(a) For camping sites	....	....	....	....	....	7
(b) For fixed type dwellings sited on above camping sites	....					8
(c) For other individual moveable dwellings	....	....				14
Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season, 1947	....	....				256

(xi) Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs :—

		<i>Infested</i>	<i>Disinfested</i>
(a) Number of Council Houses	....	0	0
(b) Number of other Houses	....	10	10

Dwellings of all persons allocated new Council Houses are inspected for vermin before they are allowed to move into the new house. Treatment using Zaldecide/D.D.T. is carried out where necessary and follow-up inspections are made.

(xii) **Schools**

During the year 18 inspections of public elementary schools have been made.

In conjunction with the Schools Medical Officer of Health of the County Council, every effort has been made to protect the health of the Scholars, and all the schools in the area, where found necessary, have been disinfected during the year as a precaution against the spread of infection.

(xiii) **Mortuaries**

The Mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

SECTION D—HOUSING**New Houses in 1947**

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority	206
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons	25
TOTAL	231

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>New Houses erected 1947</i>		<i>No. of inhabited houses in Rural District 31st Dec. 1947.</i>	
	<i>Total per Parish</i>			
	<i>Private</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>		
Alvanley	—	—	99	
Antrobus	2	—	214	
Appleton	—	10	778	
Aston	—	—	65	
Budworth (Great)	1	—	107	
Daresbury	—	—	72	
Dutton	—	—	88	
Frodsham	2	106	1526	
Grappenhall	8	—	1740	
Halton	3	14	431	
Hatton	—	—	91	
Helsby	5	24	754	
Kingsley	1	2	347	
Manley	—	—	134	
Moore	—	—	156	
Norley	—	—	262	
Norton	—	—	42	
Preston Brook	—	—	112	
Stockton Heath	2	32	2217	
Stretton	1	—	130	
Sutton	—	17	201	
Walton	—	—	506	
Whitley	—	1	162	
TOTALS	25	206	10234	

(i) **Housing**

No action has been taken under the Housing Acts to have defects remedied. The Public Health Act has been used to remedy the more serious defects. As reported in my last annual report difficulties in the supply of materials and labour remain, and the standard of existing houses still deteriorates. The Rural Housing Survey revealed there are 378 houses (Category 4) of which the only action envisaged is that of demolition. 1,042 houses were placed in Category 3 requiring complete reconditioning or demolition. Owing to the high cost of repairs and the controlled rent many owners are bound to prefer demolition rather than give satisfactory undertakings for reconditioning.

Considerable time has been spent during the year in investigating applications for Council Houses. Under the Council's Points Scheme, this department allocates points for Tuberculosis or other illness affected by housing conditions ; overcrowding, and the sanitary condition of the existing accommodation. It is satisfactory to note that 22 overcrowded cases were abated by the allocation of new Council Houses.

(ii) **"Squatters"**

The scheme for adaptation of ex-army huts into temporary dwellings at two sites was completed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Aston Lane Camp, Sutton Weaver, consists of 17 separate wooden dwellings. Considerable maintenance is required here on the roofs which are boarded and felted.

Townfield Lane Camp, Frodsham, consists of 8 dwellings in much better structural condition than those at Aston Lane Camp.

These dwellings have been useful in providing accommodation for those urgently in need of houses but who do not qualify under the Council's Points Scheme for early re-housing in permanent houses.

(iii) **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding**

		1946	1947
(a)	i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	58	59
	ii. Number of families dwelling therein	66	58
	iii. Number of persons dwelling therein	395	299
(b)	i. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6	23
(c)	i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4	22
	ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	15	142
(d)	i. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	Nil

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

Considerable business is done in this area in the production of Milk. The County Council administers the licencing of T.T. and Accredited producers and carry out regular sampling of these supplies. It is again satisfactory to note the increase in production of T.T. Milk.

Samples of milk taken by this Authority are concentrated on the non-graded producer retailers, since wholesalers have their milk regularly sampled on arrival at the dairies. The samples are examined in the County Public Health Department Laboratory free of cost to this Council.

	<i>Total</i>
No. of Producers registered	395
No. of Retail Dairymen registered	83
No. of Producers of Accredited Milk	233
No. of Producers of T.T. Milk	31
No. of Cowsheds improved in 1947	20
No. of samples methylene blue and coliform test	37
No. of these samples unsatisfactory	15
No. of Samples examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli	21
No. of these Samples found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	0
No. of Adverse Reports from outside Authorities	4

Where samples are not satisfactory, follow-up inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspectors and further sampling is carried out. In certain cases on the recommendation of the Public Health Department, the producer seeks the advice and help of the Cheshire School of Agriculture at Reaseheath, under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

Milk churns when returned from the dairies have in some cases been found to be inadequately cleansed. This applies particularly to one large dairy ; the matter was taken up with the Advisory Dairy Bacteriologist, Cheshire School of Agriculture who was able to effect some improvement.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

During the year, 104 visits were made in respect of Meat and Food Inspections, and 290 visits to other premises where foods are prepared and sold.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

No slaughter Houses were used regularly during the year 1947 ; animals being slaughtered in the adjoining Urban District of Runcorn.

Post-mortem examination of pigs occasionally slaughtered at farms under Ministry of Food Special Licences has been carried out as required.

The quantity of food condemned during the year was :—

Beef home killed	....	467 lbs.	Tinned Food Products	....	430 lbs.
Beef frozen imported	....	1033 lbs.	Flour	....	280 lbs.
Pork	....	737 lbs.	Margarine	....	28 lbs.
Bacon	....	159 lbs.	Other Foods	....	3 lbs.
Fish	....	70 lbs.			
Total—3,127 lbs.					

(c) Adulteration, etc. Food and Drugs Adulteration Act

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1947.

Samples obtained during year ended 31st December, 1947.

<i>Name of Sample</i>				<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Almond Flavouring	....	....	....	1	—
Barley Crystals	....	....	....	1	—
Cocoa	....	....	....	1	—
Coffee	....	....	....	3	—
Fish Paste	....	....	....	1	—
Glycerine, Lemon & Honey	....	....	....	1	—
Ginger Ground	....	....	....	1	—
Milk	....	....	....	39	13
Malted Milk Tablets	....	....	....	1	—
Meat Paste	....	....	....	1	—
Malt Cup	....	....	....	1	—
Orange Squash	....	....	....	1	—
Peaches Dried	....	....	....	1	—
Raisins	....	....	....	1	—
Sweets	....	....	....	2	—
Yeast	....	....	....	1	—
Whisky	....	....	....	1	—
				58	13

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples

<i>No. Sample</i>		<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1. Milk	....	2.3% deficient in non-fatty solids	Abnormal—No Action
2. „	....	2.3% deficient in non-fatty solids	„
3. „	....	1.2% deficient in non-fatty solids	„
4. „	....	33.3% deficient in fat	Cautioned
5. „	....	1.2% deficient in non-fatty solids	Abnormal—No Action
6. „	....	4.7% deficient in non-fatty solids	„
7. „	....	13.3% deficient in fat	Cautioned
8. „	....	1.5% deficient in non-fatty solids	Abnormal—No Action
9. „	....	3.3% deficient in fat	„
10. „	....	23.3% deficient in fat	Cautioned
11. „	....	1.2% deficient in non-fatty solids	Abnormal—No action
12. „	....	3.8% Extraneous Water	Cautioned
13. „	....	8.3% deficient in fat	Cautioned

(d) Shell-Fish (Molluscan)

There are no Shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the district. If shell-fish, Mussels or Shrimps are eaten locally, they must be well cooked and should come from Government controlled beds.

(e) Watercress

Only that as grown on properly controlled beds with a pure water supply should be sold and bought, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever and Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

(i) Anterior Poliomyelitis

Commencing on 10th July, 1947 an outbreak of this world-wide disease occurred mostly in Stockton Heath and District.

Working in conjunction with the Ministry of Health ; Professor Robinson of the City Laboratory, Liverpool ; Specialists in Child Welfare ; the County Medical Officer, etc., every effort was

made to investigate each case and limit the disease. The attention of all concerned in the district, including the Medical Officer of Health of the neighbouring district, was drawn to the main reasons for the outbreak of such disease, especially by human carriers and flies.

The number of cases reported was as follows :—

10th July, 1947	....	1 case in Stockton Heath.
11th " "	....	1 case in Stockton Heath
12th " "	....	1 case in Appleton
14th " "	....	1 case in Grappenhall
16th " "	....	2 cases in Stockton Heath
18th " "	....	1 case in Stockton Heath
30th " "	....	2 cases in Whitley
31st " "	....	1 case in Walton
		1 case in Stockton Heath
		1 case in Appleton
4th Aug., 1947	....	1 case in Helsby
16th " "	....	1 case in Great Budworth
18th " "	....	1 case in Grappenhall
23rd " "	....	1 case in Stockton Heath
26th " "	....	1 case in Stockton Heath
	....	1 case in Walton
28th " "	....	1 case in Walton
16th Sept. "	....	1 case in Stockton Heath
22nd " "	....	1 case in Frodsham
28th " "	....	1 case in Sutton

TOTAL 22

Of the above cases, 6 recovered, 15 improved, but are still under treatment : one died.

A Special report was requested and sent daily to the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer of Health, and finally a full detailed report was sent to the Ministry of Health.

Special use was made of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease," which I am glad to say, has reached many of the homes in both my districts, and where possible the pamphlet has been explained to those concerned by Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, etc.

Lectures on Health Education have been given from time to time by myself, and, special stress was made on the items in the pamphlet. The Ministry of Health, etc., are continuing their investigations by research, etc., as it affects this serious disease.

(ii) Diphtheria Immunisation

My Council's free scheme is still available so that Parents and Guardians can have their children properly immunised against the deadly disease Diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age, *preferably between the sixth and ninth month*, should be properly immunised against Diphtheria ; in addition a "Booster Dose" is required in five years' time. This can be obtained free of cost through the Parents' or Guardians' own Doctor (at the Surgery or at home), failing this, at Schools or Welfare Centres or Day Nurseries, to which applications should be made.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out, aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to Hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result. *Parents or Guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once. "PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."*

It will be noted that through my Council's *Free Scheme* the percentage of children immunised is now 87% ; it is recommended that when staff are available immunisation is carried out in the future in Welfare Centres and Schools by their respective Medical Services under control of the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire ; in addition to the free immunisation through local Doctors (at the Surgery or at home.). This will be carried out under the provisions of the new National Health Service Act.

The following figures speak for themselves.

RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	....	....	157
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1947	....	....	....	5
Number of children Immunised in 1939	....	....	....	50%
Number of children Immunised in 1947	....	....	....	89.8%

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	....	....	29
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1947	....	....	....	3
Number of children Immunised in 1939	....	....	....	58%
Number of children Immunised in 1947	....	....	....	87%

(iii) Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government under the appropriate Acts have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this Country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival, and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of Smallpox abroad, it is again *strongly recommended that all* infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject, this can be carried out free of charge through the local Vaccination Medical Officer.

(iv) Research

When further research reveals more about the virus causing, e.g., Measles and Whooping Cough, sound curative sera could be made when these diseases could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Further research is required into the "Carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria Immunisation, Smallpox Vaccination, Inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential. Cancer, Tuberculosis, "Rheumatism", Allergic diseases and the common Cold require intensive research.

(v) Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1947

The following Table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1947.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Diagnosed</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	28	12	—
Diphtheria	3*	3	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Pneumonia	13	—	—
Measles	337	—	—
Whooping Cough	48	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	22	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	0

*1 case Immunised with one injection only.

1 case Immunised with 1st and 2nd injections.

1 case not Immunised.

An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age groups is given below :

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases at all ages</i>	<i>Un- der 1</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 to over</i>
Scarlet Fever	28	—	—	1	2	3	14	4	2	1	—	1	—
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	13	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	3	1
Measles.....	337	7	22	40	39	58	148	9	4	9	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	48	4	3	4	9	13	14	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomye- litis	22	2	1	2	2	—	8	4	—	3	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	545	14	27	47	52	75	185	18	8	15	6	6	1

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided free to Medical Practitioners and can be obtained at any time from the local laboratories of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, or in great emergency from Dutton Isolation Hospital. *In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in Diphtheria.*

Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once in the home or in Hospital. *Swabbing is only an aid to diagnosis.*

Swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria are sent to the City Laboratory, 126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

Swabs examined during 1947 : 38 (Positive 2, Negative 36).

(vi) Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

AGE	0-30		30-50		50-70		70 and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Bladder	1	...	1
Breast	2	...	2	4
Genital Organs :									
Prostate	1	...	2	...	3
Ovary	1	...	1	...	1	3
Liver	2	...	...	1	...	...	3
Lymph Glands :									
Mediastinium....	1	...	...	...	1
Lungs	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	—	6
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Rectum	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	1	8
Remainder of Intestinal Tract :									
Oesophagues	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Colon	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	2	10
Caecum	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Stomach	—	—	—	1	3	2	4	2	12
Throat and Mouth	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Male Deaths	—	—	3	—	15	—	18	—	Total
Female Deaths	—	—	—	4	—	10	—	8	58

The 58 deaths from Cancer give a rate of 1.76 per 1,000 of population, or 14.73% of total number (393) deaths reported during year.

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

(vii) Total Deaths, 1947

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All Causes	221	172
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	6	5
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	0
9. Influenza	0	0
10. Measles	0	0
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	1	1
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	0	0
13. Cancer of b.cav. and Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F)	1	0
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	7	5
15. Cancer of breast	0	4
16. Cancer of all other parts	28	13
17. Diabetes	1	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	20	22
19. Heart Disease	62	42
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	12	11
21. Bronchitis	18	8
22. Pneumonia	7	5
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	4	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	0
25. Diarrhoea, under 2 years	4	5
26. Appendicitis	2	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	4
28. Nephritis	2	10
29. Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	1
31. Premature Births	4	1
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	4	3
33. Suicide	2	0
34. Road traffic accidents	2	1
35. Other violent causes	8	4
36. All other causes	17	21

				Males	Females
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	....	....	16	11
	Legitimate	....	....	15	11
	Illegitimate	....	....	1	0
Live Births	Total	....	....	302	253
	Legitimate	....	....	294	243
	Illegitimate	....	....	8	10
Stillbirths	Total	....	....	9	10
	Legitimate	....	....	9	10
	Illegitimate	....	....	0	0

POPULATION.....(Estimated) 32,930
Comparability Factor not available for 1947.

**Birth-Rates, Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal
Death-Rates and Case-Rates for certain Infectious Diseases
in the year 1947**

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	Runcorn Rural District	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adminis- trative County
<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>					
BIRTHS—					
Live	16.85	20.5 *	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still	0.57	0.50*	0.62	0.54	0.49
DEATHS—					
All causes	11.93	12.0*	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>					
DEATHS—					
All causes under 1 year of age	48	41†	47	36	37
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	16.2	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8.

(See REMARKS ON NEXT PAGE)*

†Per 1,000 related births.

*Rates per 1,000 total population.

* DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS IN INFANTS

In this connection a letter was sent to the local Secretaries of the B.M.A. in 1946 for the information of all Doctors, drawing attention to a special Article on "ENTERITIS IN INFANTS" which appeared in the "Lancet," etc., special stress was made on the proper cleansing and sterilisation of babies feeding bottles and teats ; in breast fed babies there was only a very small incidence of this disease. In addition, the examination of faeces, etc., at a Laboratory as required was recommended with necessary treatment, for bacteriological or chemical causes ; see remarks under Housing, Health Education.

The Ministry of Health are again investigating this serious disease in Infants—much research is being carried out, which, it is hoped, will benefit all concerned in the future.

NOTIFICATIONS (Final Diagnosis) :	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever	0.81	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
*Whooping Cough	1.45	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.06	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.03	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
*Measles	10.23	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
†Pneumonia	0.39	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64

*Rates per 1,000 total population.

†per 1,000 related births.

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :

(a) Notifications—

Puerperal Fever	1.73	7.16	8.99	6.27	1.21
Puerperal Pyrexia					6.94†

(b) Maternal Mortality (England and Wales) :

No. 140	No. 141	No. 147	Nos. 142-6 148-150
Abortion with Sepsis	Abortion without Sepsis	Puerperal Infections	Other
0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-44 in England and Wales :—

No. 140 with Sepsis
9

No. 141 without Sepsis
5

† "Including Puerperal Fever."

N.B.—Special remarks by Dr. E. N. Hillman Gray, Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts :—

† "With the increased and early use of Penicillin with ordinary precautions it is hoped this figure will fall in the future. All cases of Pneumonia are specially investigated and action is taken to prevent further cases wherever possible."

* "It is hoped when the new Ministry of Health anti-measles and Whooping Cough serum is available, that this disease will occur very rarely—Injections of Aerosporin have proved successful in the cure of early cases of Whooping Cough (see "Lancet" December 24th, 1947)"

"A Special Form has been issued by me, which contains precautions recommended in the nursing of measles, whooping cough, influenza and pneumonia at home ; copies have been sent to all Doctors and District Nurses in my Districts for distribution as required."

(viii) Care of the Blind

The welfare of Blind Persons is dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies.

(ix) Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children

This is dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc.

(x) **Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Medical Officer of Health and arrangements are made by the former for Specialist and/or Hospital treatment as required.

(xi) **Cancer (Cancer Act, 1939)**

An amended extract from the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, Annual Report on this matter, which reads as follows :

“On 1st August, 1946, the Council’s arrangements in accordance with their scheme under the Cancer Act, 1939, came into force.

These were as follows :—

- (1) The Council will provide all necessary facilities so that every person in the County who is, or is suspected to be suffering from cancer may obtain advice, and that every such person who is found to be suffering may obtain adequate treatment. In particular the Council will provide the facilities set out in the following paragraphs.
- (2) The Council will, by agreement with the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation (hereinafter called the “Organisation”) and with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester (hereinafter called the “Christie Hospital”) provide from the resources of the Organisation and of the Christie Hospital the appropriate treatment for all persons in the County suffering from cancer.
- (3) The Council will provide facilities for consultation and treatment at the following Hospitals co-operating with the Organisation and with the Christie Hospital :—

(a) **HOSPITALS CO-OPERATING WITH THE ORGANISATION.**(i) **HOSPITALS AT WHICH ALL FORMS OF TREATMENT WILL BE PROVIDED :**

Chester Royal Infirmary
Liverpool Radium Institute and
Royal Liverpool United Hospital

(ii) **HOSPITALS AT WHICH SURGICAL OR PALLIATIVE TREATMENT WILL BE PROVIDED :**

Chester City Hospital
Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital, Bebington
Royal Liverpool United Hospital (all branches)
The Women’s Hospital, Liverpool
The Liverpool Eye, Ear and Throat Infirmary
The St. Paul’s Eye Hospital, Liverpool
The Royal Liverpool Children’s Hospital

Liverpool City Hospital (Smithdown Road).
 Liverpool City Hospital (Broadgreen)
 Liverpool City Hospital (Walton)
 Liverpool City Hospital (Belmont Road)
 Liverpool City Hospital (Mill Road)
 Bootle General Hospital
 Victoria Central Hospital, Wallasey
 Birkenhead General Hospital
 Birkenhead Municipal Hospital
 Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital

- (iii) HOSPITALS AT WHICH FACILITIES FOR CONSULTATION, DIAGNOSIS AND MEDICAL OBSERVATIONS AFTER TREATMENT WILL BE PROVIDED :

Wallasey Cottage Hospital
 Prince Edward War Memorial Hospital, Rhyl;
 and all those Hospitals listed under (i) and (ii) above).

- (iv) Any other Hospital or Hospitals which, for the provision of any or all of the above facilities may, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, agree to co-operate with the Organisations.

- (b) HOSPITALS CO-OPERATING WITH THE CHRISTIE HOSPITAL

- (i) HOSPITALS AT WHICH RADIO-THERAPY AND ALL FORMS OF TREATMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE.

Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester.

- (ii) HOSPITALS AT WHICH SURGICAL OR PALLIATIVE TREATMENT WILL BE PROVIDED :

West Park (County) General Hospital, Macclesfield
 Warrington Infirmary
 Ashton-under-Lyme District Infirmary.
 and (as a Preliminary Diagnostic Centre only)
 Crewe Memorial Hospital

- (iii) HOSPITALS AT WHICH FACILITIES FOR CONSULTATION, DIAGNOSIS AND MEDICAL OBSERVATION AFTER TREATMENT WILL BE PROVIDED :

All those Hospitals listed under (i) and (ii) above.

- (iv) Any other Hospital or Hospitals which for the provision of any or all of the above facilities may, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, agree to co-operate with the Christie Hospital.

(4) The Council will arrange for the attendance of consultants at any of the above places either with themselves or through the medium of the Organisation or the Christie Hospital as the case may be, and at such times as may be necessary in order to meet individual needs.

(5) The Council will arrange with the approval of the Ministry of Health for accommodation to be available for such patients as require nursing and palliative treatment in the last stages of irremediable disease.

(6) The Council will make arrangements through the Organisation or the Christie Hospital, as the case may be, for the transfer of such patients as require highly specialised treatment to such special centres as are or may be approved by the Ministry of Health.

(7) The Council will, by agreement with :—

The Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation.

The Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute,
Manchester.—

Arrange for the examination of pathological specimens in all cases where such examination is considered necessary for purposes of diagnosis and treatment, and will collaborate with the Organisation or the Christie Hospital, as the case may be, in the maintenance of Pathological Registers including such specimens.

(8) In addition to the general arrangements set out above, the Council will provide for the diagnosis and treatment of any individual case at such Hospital or other Institution as the Minister may approve.”

EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS SERIOUS DISEASE.

(xii) Tuberculosis

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary to compulsorily remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be specially noted :—

Proper food (see remarks in Introduction), in addition, early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to Sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. All new cases are speci-

ally investigated by me and reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

In my opinion, ALL MILK, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN, *should be properly "PASTEURISED", failing this heat treated properly in the home.*

With proper veterinary control of cattle ; proper housing conditions, and food for the people, these, with heat treatment of milk (e.g., Pasteurisation or proper heat treatment in the home)., will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat treatment of milk not only kills the Tubercle Bacillus but other germs causing serious diseases.

Particulars of the 17 new cases of Tuberculosis, and of the 10 deaths from the disease in the area during 1947 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
4-14	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
15-24	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
25-34	3	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
35-44	1	—	—	1	3	1	—	—
45-54	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	3	4	5	5	3	—	2

All of the 10 Deaths were Notified Cases.

Specimens of Sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Cheshire County Council's Laboratory.

During the year 1947, the following Sputums were dealt with :

Total No. of Sputums : 60 (Negative 53, Positive 7).

Tuberculosis Cases on Register. Comparative Rates.

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1947	32,930	60	42	29	32	163	4.95
1946	32,760	68	44	34	34	180	5.49
1945	31,710	71	53	32	41	197	6.21
1944	—	65	53	37	47	202	
1943	—	66	49	31	42	188	
1942	—	67	47	31	43	188	
1941	—	61	42	30	37	170	
1940	32,790	52	38	31	37	158	4.81
1939	32,420	52	40	32	38	162	5.0

The Ministry of Health are carrying out intensive research in the use of Streptomycin in the treatment of Tuberculosis, especially for Tuberculosis Meningitis and Miliary Tuberculosis. This drug is at the moment only available at certain Hospitals in the U.K., but further supplies are expected soon.

(xiii) Isolation Hospital Report, 1947

	Urban	Rural	Total
No. of Patients in Hospital at 1st Jan., 1947	—	2	2
No. of Patients admitted during 1947	26	36	62
No. of Patients discharged during 1947	25	37	62
No. of Patients died in Hospital during 1947 (cause of death, Cerebral hæmorrhage due to Natural Causes)	1	—	1
No. of Patients in Hospital at end of 1947	—	1	1

Details of cases admitted during 1947 :

Admitted as	Final Diagnosis	Urban	Rural	Total
Diphtheria	Diphtheria	5	3	8
„	Vincent's Angina	—	1	1
„	Acute Streptococcal Tonsillitis	—	1	1
„	Acute Follicular Tonsillitis	—	6	6
„	Diphtheria Carrier	1	—	1
„	Acute Streptococcal Tonsillitis & Diphtheria Carrier	1	—	1
Diphtheria	Acute Follicular Tonsillitis & Diphtheria Carrier	3	—	3
Diphtheria	Acute Streptococcal Tonsillitis & Vincent's Angina	—	2	2
Diphtheria Carrier	Acute Streptococcal Tonsillitis	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	Scarlet Fever	12	12	24
„	Erythema Allergica	1	—	1
Measles	Measles	—	2	2
Measles & Broncho Pneumonia	Measles and Broncho Pneumonia	—	1	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	5	5
„	Intestinal Stasis	1	—	1
Vincent's Angina	Vincent's Angina	—	1	1
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	—	1
Pemphigus	Pemphigus	—	1	1
Pemphigus Contact	Pemphigus Contact	—	1	1
	TOTAL	26	36	62

Average length of stay in Hospital : 30 days.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR

In accordance with Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, I beg to report as follows :—

Eighteen Canal Boats were inspected during the year 1947, at the Stockton Heath, Preston Brook, and Norton Quays.

There were no contraventions, and no infectious diseases were reported on the Boats whilst they were in our area.

The number of persons occupying the boats inspected were

Males	21	Females	7	Children	6
------------	----	--------------	---	---------------	---

Total nett adults	31
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The number allowed by the Certificates was 62.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT

Taking into consideration the conditions created by the shortage of housing, the general health of the community is satisfactory for the moment. When the various matters recommended in this Report are put into effect, health (mental and physical) should greatly improve, provided ALL concerned co-operate.

Proper housing conditions, food, and further health education are URGENTLY REQUIRED.

The final part of my lecture on "Health and the Joy of Life" may well be quoted here :—

"Be clean, eat the proper food daily—properly cooked. Finally, Work hard, play hard—and learn to relax ; one then will have gained SOMETHING towards Health and the Joy of Life."

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts.

Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital, Dutton.

P.S. *Please keep this Report handy for easy reference and read it carefully and pass the information on to others.*

APPENDIX "A"

IMPORTANT

THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) **CLEANLINESS** (a) This **MUST** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to Feeding Bottles and Teats).

WHY ? Where these are **ABSOLUTELY** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **MUST** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY ? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands **OR UNDER THE NAILS** and so spread disease germs to food ; **ALWAYS** thoroughly wash the hands **AND CLEAN UNDER THE NAILS** after using the lavatory.

- (2) **DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE**

(a) **FLIES**—Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **IN WHICH FLIES BREED** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly, (Burying and **WELL COVERING** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g. fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, and etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **MUST** be fly proof. Food **MUST** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **MUST** be used to **COVER** contents in pail closets.

WHY ? Flies **CARRY** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) **RATS & MICE**—For the destruction of these ask your Chemist, failing this your Sanitary Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY ? Rats and Mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) **FOOD**—Should be **PROPERLY** heat treated, this applies especially to the manufacture of Ice-Cream, the cooking of Shell-Fish, the Pasteurisation of Milk, (**FAILING THIS, BOILING IT AT HOME**).

WHY ? By proper cooking, any disease germs present are destroyed, this applies to all kinds of food including Ice-Cream, Shell-Fish and Milk.

- (4) **WATERCRESS** must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied ; **THIS WITH LETTUCE AND FRUITS** without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condyl's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY ? Watercress can carry disease germs on it, this also applies to Lettuce and Fruit.

- (5) **DRIED EGGS & DRIED MILK** must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly (for example within 48 hours).

WHY ? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g. over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease).

- (6) **ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES** should be from a pure supply ; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities, see instructions on bottles obtainable from most Chemists. Do NOT BATHE IN RIVERS, etc., which may be sewage polluted.

WHY ? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it ; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.

- (7) **CONSTIPATION.** This must be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g. whole-meal bread, and vegetables, also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own Doctor.

WHY ? If constipated, foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel, so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body.

- (8) **TO AVOID SPREADING "COLDS IN THE HEAD," INFLUENZA,** etc. Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.

WHY ? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat, disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.

- (9) **PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALL-POX,** etc. See that all (especially young children) have these as required.

WHY ? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own Doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

- (10) **PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES,** etc. After any serious disease in a house, etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Sanitary Inspector), ALSO A THOROUGH "spring clean," the latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as Influenza, Measles, and Whooping Cough.

WHY ? by this disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.

- (11) **ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.** Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to Hospital or nursed at home.

WHY ? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own doctor or Public Health Department (e.g. your Sanitary Inspector).

- (12) **DEFECTIVE TEETH.** See your Dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every 6 months.

WHY ? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (13) **THE PREVENTIVE FOODS.** Eat some of these daily in your daily diet, which **MUST** be properly cooked, varied, **AND** flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e. those which help the body to prevent disease) are—Milk and Eggs (dried or ordinary), cheese, fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads), animal fats, e.g. fish (especially herrings), butter, margarine (vitamised). These all contain valuable substances called **VITAMINS** which **ARE ESSENTIAL** to good health. If in doubt ask, e.g., your health visitor, school teacher, failing this your doctor.

GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own Doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above commonsense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.
- (2) **ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** Have Discussion Groups, Lectures and films on Health Education. Attend the official classes on Personal Hygiene given by, e.g. the Red Cross Society, St. John Association; Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these commonsense preventive measures and tell others about them.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on **YOU**—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

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